

AUG 23 2009

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 1, September 2009

Conservation Awards

By Arthur Feinstein, Executive Director

The Golden Gate Audubon Society presents its Elsie Roemer Conservation Awards "In grateful recognition of consistent dedication to the preservation of our natural environment."

This award is named in honor of Elsie Roemer, who was one of our brave environmental warriors as she fought long and hard to preserve Alameda's wetland habitats. The Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, located at the

southern end of Crown Beach in Alameda, is named after her.

We don't present these awards every year, but when deserving people make outstanding efforts to save our natural world, we are only too happy to acknowledge and reward those efforts.

This year we are proud to present the award to several people. We celebrate them all and will present them with a token of our appreciation at our General Meeting, September 21, at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley at 7:50 pm.

We Need Your Help

Yes! We need your help to recruit new members. The more members we have, the more we can accomplish. As our chapter grows, so does our ability to influence decisions that affect our environment. While our 5,000 members are many, and politicians do listen to us, they often listen too little. Wetlands are still being destroyed, and wildlife habitat disappears daily. Every new member gets us more attention from decision makers.

The goal of the National Audubon Society and of Golden Gate Audubon Society is to create a "culture of conservation" in our country. We do that in large part by growing our membership. To achieve that growth, we need your help. Please tell your friends about us and ask them to join. Enclosed in this issue of the *Gull* is an application form. Give it to someone you think might be interested, or take out a gift membership in his or her name.

We also need someone to help lead our efforts in attracting new members. We are very much need a Membership Committee Chairperson. This person will have the opportunity to build this committee into a fully functioning part of our chapter organization. It's fun and challenging! You'll meet new people, express your creativity, and be involved in birding and saving our birds. Come join us! It's as rewarding an experience as you can have. If you are interested, please call Arthur Feinstein at the GGAS office at 510-845-2222. Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

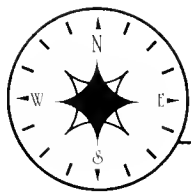
Frank and Janice Delfino

Frank and Janice have been fighting for wetlands for as long as I've known them, more than 15 years now. Some wetlands along the East Bay shoreline would now be housing if not for the tenacious dedication of Frank and Janice.

Although Frank and Janice are not GGAS members, they have often taken on our struggles and helped us to victory. For example, Frank and Janice are long-time supporters and fighters for the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. No one attended more meetings in Alameda than Frank and Janice when we were struggling to get the Refuge created and to fix its boundaries. And now that the Refuge is a sure thing, Frank and Janice are part of our Friends of the Alameda Refuge (FAWR) Committee. They help to clean up the Least Tern nesting site before nesting season, and they attend all of the FAWR meetings.

When dredging was proposed for the Ballena Bay Marina near the Alameda Refuge, Frank and Janice noticed that the

Continues on page 10



Field Trips Calendar

Sunday September 3, STRYBING ARBORETUM, SF.

See July Gull for details. Leaders:
Allen Ridley and Helen McKenna
(415) 566-3241.

Monday September 4, COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.

See July Gull for details. Please make
reservations. Leader: Harry Fuller
(415) 668-8229. harry_fuller@zd.com

Saturday September 9, COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.

See July Gull for details. Leader: Dan
Murphy (415) 564-0074.

Wednesday September 13, MINI-TRIP TO ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE and surrounding areas.

See July Gull for details. Anna Wilcox
(510)-351-9301 and Jean-Marie
Spoelman.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS TRIP!!!!

Saturday September 30, LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, Marin.

See July Gull for details. Leader: Bob
Lewis (510) 845-5001.
Rlewis0727@aol.com.

Sunday September 24, COASTAL SAN FRANCISCO.

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot
between South and Middle Lakes
(Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Avenue
and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden
Gate Park. We will begin our birding
in the park, then probably head to
Lake Merced, followed by various
destinations in the Golden Gate
National Recreation Area in search of
warblers, flycatchers, and vagrants.
Bring lunch and be prepared for cold
weather near the coast. Beginners
welcome. Leader: Mark Eaton (415)
566-6767. mweaton@pacbell.net

Sunday October 3, STRYBING ARBORETUM, SF.

Meet at 8 am at the front gate of the
Arboretum (9th Ave and Lincoln
Way) for this regular first Sunday of
the month half-day trip. The Strybing
Arboretum is a delightful section of
Golden Gate Park, with several
"microhabitats" attracting a varied
array of resident, migrant and

vagrant birds. Beginners and all oth-
ers welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley
and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday, October 11, EAST BAY SHORELINE, Alameda Co.

Meet at 9:30 am at the large dirt
parking lot next to the Seabreeze
Market at the intersection of
Interstate 80 and University Ave in
Berkeley. Take Interstate 80 to the
University exit and go west towards
the marina. We will bird the nearby
mudflats for shorebirds, then proba-
bly caravan to Point Isabel and other
shoreline spots. Lunch optional.
Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Anna
Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie
Spoelman.

Saturday October 7, HAWK HILL Marin County.

Hawk Hill in the Golden Gate
National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is
the premier hawk watch location in
the west. Each fall, about 20,000
hawks fly over or near Hawk Hill,
and over two hundred volunteers
engage in hawk counting, banding,

Continues on page 6

Arrowhead Marsh Bird Census Come Join the Party!

Come join an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and friendly group of volunteers who are conducting a 5-year bird census of the newly restored area of Arrowhead Marsh in M. L. King Jr Park in Oakland off Doolittle Drive. We are going into our third year of the census, and we celebrated this June with a party at Pete Goldman's house in Berkeley (see photo). The volunteers go out once a month for a 2-hour stint in groups of 2 or more. They conduct a bird survey of the newly restored area and also the original marsh where the Clapper Rail has been found. This summer we spotted Clapper Rail chicks when we were conducting our breeding bird survey, and there were also many American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt chicks found in the newly restored marsh. Burrowing Owls have made their home on one of the mounds in the restoration area. During the regular count, thousands of ducks and shorebirds have made the marsh their stop during their migration, and it is a thrill to see the numbers that

Continues on page 6

Gambel's Life: Brief but Brilliant

By Harry Fuller

Dr William Gambel (1821–1849) may qualify as the most important 19th century figure in California ornithology. He was the first trained naturalist to spend extensive time on California soil. Before Gambel's arrival, naturalists in California were confined to naval expeditions or brief stays, like Thomas Nuttall's 2 months in the spring of 1836. Gambel arrived by foot in 1841 and left California at the end of 1843, having experienced all seasons and visited many parts of the state.

His namesake legacy is a rich one: Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*) and Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambelii*), both of which Gambel first discovered for science. Both are California residents. Named for him are a subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) and a formerly recognized subspecies of Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)—both winter in California. Also named for him are a genus of lizard and Gambel's oak, both of which he discovered. In addition, he first collected and scientifically described several California birds.

How did a man who died before his 29th birthday accomplish so much?

Gambel was born into an impoverished but educated Irish family near Philadelphia. His father died when young William was 9 years old. His mother began teaching to support her 4 children. Eldest son William followed his interests toward nature study and began working for the aging Nuttall (1786–1859), who was busily writing up his findings on the natural history of the Pacific Coast. Nuttall was also starting a work on American trees, making collecting trips along the Atlantic seaboard. Thus, in the late 1830s, young Gambel went along with him on field trips to the Carolinas, then to New England as far north as Maine. They surely spent much time discussing what Nuttall had seen in California in 1836 and what Nuttall imagined he had not seen. Gambel was an able student and apprentice collector, his primary interests being minerals and birds. He was also learning about plants and mammals from one of the top field naturalists in American history, Nuttall. In 1840, the elder man finished a revised edition of his *Ornithology*. At that time, it was the only complete, popularly priced book about American birds, revised to include most of Nuttall and Townsend's observations from the Pacific Coast. Gambel would have known this book by heart.

On page 664, Nuttall credits his young assistant with observations on a Northern Flicker nest: "My Friend, Mr Gambel, observed...a burrow of this kind in Cambridge [Mass], excavated out of the living trunk of a Sassafras about 15 feet from the ground."

Thus, Gambel was well prepared when, at age 19, he got the chance to travel west with a group of traders in 1841. He was going as a collector for his mentor, Nuttall.

Gambel traveled via Saint Louis and Independence, Missouri, reaching Santa Fe, New Mexico, on July 2, 1840.

It was near there that he first saw the Mountain Chickadee. Also nearby, he discovered his namesake oak growing along the upper Rio Grande.

By September, he had joined trappers heading to California via the Mormon Trail through Utah. He was the first naturalist to visit that area. Gambel wrote to Nuttall of his quail discovery: "We met with small flocks of this handsome species some distance [east] of California, in the month of November, inhabiting the most barren brushy plain...here, where a person would suppose it to be impossible for any animal to subsist."

By November 1841, Gambel was on the southern California coast, where he collected botanical and zoological specimens. The following November, he asked the US Navy for protection (this was still Mexican territory) from local Indian tribes. Instead, Gambel was hired as secretary to Commodore Ap-Catesby Jones (who has a San Francisco street named after him). When Jones lost his command for mistakenly seizing Monterey, Gambel stayed with the ship and the new commanders. Thus, he moved as far north as San Francisco and Monterey and as far south as South America, all with Navy protection.

In 1842, Gambel sent Nuttall a letter from Pueblo Los Angeles with descriptions of 11 southwestern birds, 4 new to science: Wrentit, California Thrasher, Oak Titmouse, and a bird named for his friend, Nuttall's Woodpecker. The first 3 were collected near Monterey. By the time he got back to Philadelphia, Gambel was renowned among natural scientists. John Cassin wrote Spencer Baird in 1845:

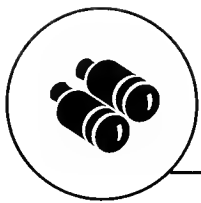
"Eureka, Gambel is here with his California birds...some of the most magnificent specimens I ever saw...decidedly the gem of his collection is a most superb specimen of...a beautiful cuckoo-like bird which walks on the ground."

The Roadrunner had been previously described from Mexican collectors but had not been seen by US scientists.

Back in Philadelphia, Gambel was befriended by leading scientists of his time: Cassin, Adolphus Heermann, Spencer Baird, Edward Harris—even meeting the legendary Audubon. Gambel published a series of papers, culminating in his list of 176 species seen on the western trip. Much of his information was incorporated into Cassin's book on birds of the Pacific Coast. Gambel drew 5 plates for Nuttall's book on trees, but the friends would never meet again because Nuttall returned to England in 1842.

Gambel completed medical training, married, and planned to begin his medical career in California, where the Gold Rush was on. In 1849, he started across country with a group of settlers. His record was already brilliant, his future looked even brighter. En route he made a seri-

Continues on page 7



A Little Night Music

The phone rang just as I was trying to decide on my column's topic. After 17 years of writing about birds, I was wondering if I was dried up, or if I should "recycle" a subject. As I write this, fellow columnist, Scott Ostler, was doing research on mockingbirds, who are disturbing residents in a San Francisco neighborhood with their nocturnal serenades. Beauty is in the "ear" of the beholder, I guess. However, since I treasure my time beneath the covers, I must admit that a nighttime concert has also annoyed me at times.

The mockingbird family, *Mimus polyglottos* ("many-tongued mimic"), includes catbirds, thrashers, and the famous mockingbird. Why famous? It is a symbol of the South and has been regaled in songs for its skilled mimicry. Mockingbirds live year-round in trees and shrubs in suburban and country gardens or even in cacti in the Southwest. Their range has been slowly extending northward. Sadly, I have noted that during the past few Christmas Counts, the number of mockers has been declining. I have wondered if it's competition for food or some other factor. Their cousins, the California Thrashers, have also been scarce but that could be loss along with shyness. Because thrashers rarely vocalize in December, they are hard to locate.

One of my resources claims that mockingbirds can mimic 39 songs of other bird species and that it can imitate 50 bird call notes. It can also imitate the cackling of hens, a dog barking, whistles, and even notes of a piano! The mocker in my former home was going to town 1 day, and I counted 17 different sounds, all in

rapid succession, which included a squirrel, a frog, and a cat, along with the songs of many local birds.

Why would this species go to such lengths to attract attention? Mainly, it is to establish its territory. These areas are small, sharply defined, and aggressively defended and are formed twice a year. Spring bursts with their songs as the male loudly announces his availability. When a female arrives, there is a short period when he chases her. Once she accepts his offer, the male becomes quieter, and nest-building will begin in a few days. In spring and summer, the pair defend their nesting area against intruders: people, dogs, cats, snakes, large birds, and any other animal. They are fearless.

In the fall, either the male or the female may sing. Establishing the fall territory is centered around sources of food, crucial to winter survival. At this time, the mockingbirds display toward robins, starlings, jays, and any other birds that compete for the same foods, mainly berries and fruits.

When the male mockingbird begins his courting, he picks a prominent place from which to perform his concert. His singing is usually accompanied by a "loop flight"; that is, he flies up into the air, makes a short loop, and then settles back onto his perch. This display shows off his handsome white wing patches and white outer tail feathers, a nice contrast to his fine grey "suit."

Why, you ask, would a mockingbird sing night after night in the moonlight? Perhaps he is a frustrated suitor. Or, maybe, he just likes the sound of his own voice—though that's probably not likely. If this night song is truly disturbing you, I'm afraid

your only recourse is ear plugs. Or you could start tabulating the number of different songs and sounds he is "shouting." Or you could just try to enjoy one of nature's concerts until you nod off again. With so many ugly sounds out there: garbage trucks, cars honking, car alarms, cat fights, dogs barking, shouting, etc, think of the mockingbird's warbling as simply "A Little Night Music."

Donations

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Virginia and George Bing (toward current legal expenses)

Stephen Cashman, with matching grant from National Semiconductor

Gifts (to \$99)

Mary and Raymond Forth (for Bank Swallow legal fees)

In Memoriam

Ann and Don Hughes in Memory of Donald Dwyer, Joan Murphy's father

Other Gifts

Tarci Fischer donated a birding CD

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.

A Bequest to Protect the Future of Our Natural World

The year 2000 marks the 83rd anniversary of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. This makes us one of the oldest conservation organizations in the nation! We've also been one of the most successful.

Below is a short, and very incomplete, list of some of the accomplishments we have achieved in our ongoing efforts to preserve our natural world.

The preservation of the tidal marshes of the Emeryville Crescent;

The preservation of the Albany Mudflats (the first and second most important shorebird feeding habitats in the Central Bay);

The restoration of wetlands at Pier 98 in San Francisco;

The saving from destruction of 480 acres of seasonal wetlands at the Oakland Airport;

The saving of 70 acres of wetlands in San Leandro Bay;

The restoration of 71 acres of wetlands at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in San Leandro Bay;

The restoration of 20 acres of wetlands at Crissy Field in the Presidio;

The saving of Mono Lake (we raised nearly \$100,000 for that long legal battle); The preservation of public shoreline access at Harbor Bay Isle in Alameda;

The saving of Bolinas Lagoon from the threat of development and the creation of Audubon Canyon Ranch.

The creation of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge.

What an amazing list of achievements. These are all environmental victories in which GGAS played a major, and often leading, role. They are victories in which we can all take great pride.

Our efforts have taken many forms. We litigate (Oakland Airport and San Leandro Bay wetlands); we advocate (Pier 98); we get out our members (over 150 GGAS members came to a night meeting to support the Crissy Field wetland restoration project and thus overcame intense opposition to the project); and we undertake sound science (preservation of the Emeryville Crescent and the creation of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge).

Looking to the future of the Bay Area and the fate of its wildlife, it's clear that Golden Gate Audubon needs to

remain a strong and active leader in the fight to preserve our wildlife and their habitats.

As we look forward to retirement and beyond, one of the most significant actions we can take as conservationists and environmentalists is to consider placing a charitable bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society in our will or living trust. Such an act will help ensure Golden Gate Audubon's continued effectiveness in our efforts to make the world a better place for our wildlife companions and us.

Making a bequest in a will or living trust is easy. You can start by telling your attorney that you want to make a bequest. It can be for a fixed amount or a portion of your estate. Making a bequest active only upon the death of the surviving spouse is a way to ensure comfort for yourselves and loved ones while still providing for your future charitable gift. Significant tax advantages may be available when a bequest is made to a nonprofit organization such as Golden Gate Audubon.

The following is suggested wording for making such a bequest. Please feel free to share this information with your estate advisor.

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc, in Berkeley, California, the amount of

(state dollar amount of gift or percentage of estate)

to be used exclusively to fund the Golden Gate Audubon Society's conservation and education efforts. Golden Gate Audubon Tax ID # 94-6086896."

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible gift through a bequest or charitable trust, please feel free to call Executive Director Arthur Feinstein at 510-843-2222. We have a team of volunteer experts in this field who can advise you on the best course for you.

We hope this is of interest to those of our members who are contemplating the future and who hope to give our natural world a little bit of help. Thanks.

Alice Hoch's Fall Birding Field Trips Class

Alice Hoch's next Birding Field Trips class begins Tuesday, September 12, 2000, and continues through October 17. Register by Thursday September 7 by calling the Fremont Adult School at 510-791-5841. Class size is limited, so call early.

The class birds a different site each week for 6 weeks on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Alice has been teaching Birding Field Trips for over 25

years and is an active member of Ohlone Audubon Society. Her classes are filled with friendly, helpful people at all levels from absolute beginner to very experienced.

Be prepared to birdwatch at the first class meeting.

A winter class will be offered November 7 through December 19. If you have questions, call the Fremont Adult School at 510-791-5841 or Alice at 510-657-0475.

Arrowhead ... Continued from page 2

have started using this reclaimed area. It has been a resounding success, and we would like to thank the many volunteers who have made it so.

Thanks to Bob Battagin, Elsie Becker, Kathryn Blake, Kay Bloom, Andree Breaux, Howard Brownson, Tim Cleere, Joan Collignon, Kristin Doner, Judith Dunham, Sue Gallegher, Pete Goldman, Barbara Haley, Susan Hampton, Cathy Hubbard, Danne Jones, Evelyn Kennedy, Caroline Kim, Scott Lambert, Jill Lawrence, Melanie Lutz, Mona Mena, Collin Murphy, Marilyn Nasatir, Charlotte Nolan, Leah Norwood, Susan Pagani, Nancy Page, Courtenay Page, Nora Rojak, Mary Schaefer, Elizabeth Sojourner, Inge Svoboda, Carol Thorpe, Ruth Ungar, Ed Walker, and Steve Walsh for their time and effort.

If you are interested in volunteering, please give the GGAS office a call at 510 843-2222, and we will sign you up. Don't worry about your birding skills; this is a great way to hone them. We hope to have a training session in the fall for new and old volunteers. This is a wonderful group of people and a beautiful spot to visit, so we hope that you will consider joining us. Call me at 510 549-0411 if you have any questions. Hope to hear from you.
Census coordinator, Carolyn Kolka

Field Trips Calendar... Continued from page 2

telemetry and other research programs. Enjoy the majesty of the various species of hawks that migrate through the Bay Area as Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) Day Leader and Docent Stefanie Arthur discusses the mission and work of GGRO and points out the finer details of raptor identification. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the middle platform of Hawk Hill (Battery 129). From Berkeley, take the Richmond bridge to 101 south. Exit at the last entrance before the Golden Gate Bridge. Turn left at the stop sign, then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Road. Drive up to the top of the hill (at which point the road is one way downhill - don't go downhill), turn around and park. Walk up to Hawk Hill via the gated fire road. From San Francisco, take the first exit after the Golden Gate Bridge, which is Alexander. Turn left and drive under the freeway. Turn left, then right into the GGNRA. You will be on Conzelman Road. See Berkeley directions. Rain cancels. Heavy fog may make viewing difficult. Bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, hat. Layered clothing advisable. Trip will end at about 2:00. Parking limited so come early and carpool if possible. Leader: Stefanie Arthur (415) 587-9282

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

Golden Gate Audubon Society Membership Application

- ☐ Please enroll me as a member of the National Society and of my local chapter:
Golden Gate Audubon Society

Please send Audubon magazine and my membership to the address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

National Audubon Society

- Audubon Magazine • Gull Newsletter
- Local Chapter Activities

- ☐ Introductory Membership\$20.00
Please make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Membership in Local Chapter Only
Gull Newsletter • Chapter Activities

- ☐ Annual Subscription\$10.00
Please make check payable to:
Golden Gate Audubon Society

Mail either check to:

Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510) 843-2222

Fall Seed Sale – Sunflower Seed Prices Are Looking Good!

It's fall, and our wintering birds have returned, and are they hungry! If you want to help them out, here's your chance. Also, we're pleased to pass on to you the new low prices for sunflower seed charged to us by our distributor. Stock up—it's a great buy. The price of niger is also lower than ever.

Our next birdseed sale pickup will take place on September 22 and 23, 2000. If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, September 14.

We will have extra seed and bird feeders on hand, so if you didn't order enough seed, or forgot to order any seed at all, come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

Pick up of seed will take place Friday, September 22, 3 to 6 pm, and Saturday, September 23, 9 am to noon at the Golden Gate Audubon Office in Berkeley.

Most of our native birds, such as chickadees, nuthatches, White-crowned Sparrows, Purple and House finches, and woodpeckers, favor sunflower seeds. Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and chickadees also love niger (thistle seed). We urge you to consider using these seeds alone. We will, of course, continue to carry our Volkman mixed seed (sunflower and millet), which also attracts doves and English Sparrows.

Our Volkman Premium Wildbird seed and GGAS Own Mixed seeds are the best available. They contain no waste seed and have been cleaned of debris and dust so that you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS office, 510-843-2222.

Our Duncraft Feeder is a 16-in long tube seed-feeder. We also have some squirrel-proof feeders that have a 1-in wire mesh surrounding the feeder that keeps out squirrels and larger birds, letting in only our songbirds, finches, and sparrows. As always, we have a variety of hummingbird feeders.

Remember, your purchases provide an important source of income to GGAS, allowing us to continue our conservation, education, and field-trip activities. We look forward to seeing you on seed-sale day.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE ORDER AND PREPAY BY September 14, PICK-UP September 22, and September 23.

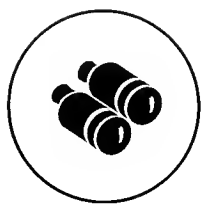
NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	
TELEPHONE (DAY)	(EVENING)

SEED			QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 9.00		
	50 lbs.	\$19.50		
<i>Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed</i>				
VOLKMAN PREMIUM WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.	\$ 8.50		
	50 lbs.	\$18.50		
<i>Composed of only red and white millet – no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)</i>				
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs.	\$11.00		
	50 lbs.	\$20.00		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER CHIPS <i>(No waste!)</i>	25 lbs.	\$22.00		
NIGER (THISTLE) SEED	5 lbs.	\$ 8.00		
FEEDERS				
DUNCRAFT SEED FEEDER 16"			\$28.00	
THISTLE FEEDER			\$10.00	
SQUIRREL PROOF FEEDER			\$46.16	
HUMMINGBIRD (window)			\$10.00	
HUMMZINGER (saucer style, 16 oz.)			\$16.00	
HUMMINGBIRD (16 oz. bottle)			\$12.00	
SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")			\$ 5.50	
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)			\$ 2.75	
GGAS Hat			\$15.00	
GGAS T-shirt			\$10.00	
Be sure to include your check with a stamped and self-addressed envelope. Pick up in Berkeley at the GGAS office			SUB-TOTAL	
			8.25% SALES TAX	
			TOTAL	
			CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS	
			POSTAGE FOR HATS & T-SHIRTS	
			GRAND TOTAL	

Gambel's Life: ... Continued from page 3

ous mistake, joining a slower-moving group that promised more time for field collecting. Gambel's party reached Nevada at the end of a dry fall, losing most of their cattle and horses. Then they hit the eastern edge of the Sierra after the first snows. Gambel was one of the few survivors of the ill-fated group that made it through the mountains, reaching Rose's Bar on the Yuba River. There, while helping

a group of sick gold miners, Gambel himself caught typhoid and died December 15, 1949. Gambel's bones and Rose's Bar were both sluiced away by hydraulic mining. But he left a legacy worthy of a great naturalist: the Mountain Chickadee Gambel's trove of original bird observations, and one of our most beautiful birds, Gambel's Quail, survive.



May 30–July 7, 2000

Fledglings abounded and bird song decreased as we moved into the summer months. Eight review species were seen during the period, and reports of rare Wood Warblers were much increased compared with the previous month. First county nesting records were reported for 4 species.

Loons to Ibis

One very worn **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsi*) was spotted off PRNS Lighthouse, MRN, June 4, 5, and 9 (RS fide KH, GM). Eight Black-footed Albatross were just offshore from Fort Bragg, MEN, Jun. 9 (DT), 145 of them were seen on a June 28 Cordell Banks pelagic trip (DN), and numerous sightings were made on a July 7 Santa Cruz, SCZ, pelagic trip (CK). A **Short-tailed Albatross** (*Phoebastria albatrus*) was reported off the San Rafael Bridge, MRN, July 6 (RB). If documented, this inshore sighting would be a record for both the 20th and 21st centuries. The bones of this bird have been found in shell mounds along the coast, indicating that in earlier times, it was much more commonly found away from the open ocean than at present (Small, 1994). Eight Northern Fulmars were found on the June 28 Cordell Bank pelagic trip as well as 48 Pink-footed Shearwaters (DN), and numerous Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on the July 7 Santa Cruz trip (CK). The Santa Cruz boat also recorded an early Buller's Shearwater (JD). A pair of breeding-plumaged Little Blue Herons were along the Alviso Slough Trail, SCL, July 4 (PJM).

Condors to Skimmers

Two of the released California Condors flew over Big Sur, MTY, July 1 (MPRBA). One adult Ross's Goose was at Lake Chabot, ALA, for at least 3 weeks before June 20 (KR). A male Tufted Duck was at Modoc NWR,

MOD, June 19–20 (DSH fide PJM). A single Harlequin Duck was at Brooks Island, CC, June 28 (PGr), and a female Oldsquaw was offshore from PRNS, MRN, June 3 (JC). An **Upland Sandpiper** (*Bartramia longicauda*) was heard well but not seen at Rush Creek, south of Lee Vining, MON, May 30 (CN). This species is a bird of the upper midwestern and northeastern US and a rare transient, especially in the summer (Small, 1994). The first spring **Hudsonian Godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*), originally reported May 26, remained at Coyote Creek Field Station, SCL, through May 29, at the end of the last period (LC).

A South Polar Skua was found on the July 7 Santa Cruz pelagic trip (CK, AJ). An unusual inland and summer sighting of a Pomarine Jaeger occurred over Duhig Rd, SON, June 26 (DS), and an inland Long-tailed Jaeger at the City of Davis Wetlands, YOL, June 9–11, was a first county record (DSt, JS). Very rare away from the coast was a Laughing Gull at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, July 1 (VT). Heermann's Gulls continued to nest at Roberts Lake, Seaside, MTY, where there were 3 hatchlings by June 18 (MPRBA). Four California Gull nests, one with chicks, were discovered at Brooks Island, CC, June 29 (SG), representing a first county nesting record. An out-of-season Herring Gull was at the mouth of Pescadero Creek, SM, June 6 (PJM).

Unusual away from the shore was a Common Tern near Bridgeport, MON, May 30 (CN), and two were seen there June 4 (CN). Although the female Arctic Tern that hybridized with a Forster's Tern both this year and last was seen on a 2-egg nest at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, June 4–18, sharing incubation duties with the Forster's Tern, the nest was apparently abandoned by June 26, although the female was seen again July 2 (BR). The banded hybrid from

last year's mating was also identified there on June 18 (BR). Least Terns continued to find new areas. One was seen near Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, May 31 (CP), and the Albany Mudflats, ALA, hosted at least 20 birds with at least 10 nests and 1 hatched chick by June 25 (LT, CL). The first Least Terns of the season were seen at the Alameda NWR, ALA, colony site on May 29 (MR), and there were ~10 birds at Crown Beach, ALA, June 23 (MR). Single Least Terns were seen at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, June 4 (JeD) and off Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN, June 24 (RS).

A species that continues to expand out of its historic range is the Black Skimmer. Reports keep arriving from several locations, both old and new. Four birds were at Elkhorn Slough, MTY, June 4, near the Salinas River mouth June 7&8 (JeD, MPRBA), and 8 others (2 on nests) were at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, June 4, although no nesting was observed later in the month, and the numbers of birds reportedly dropped to 1 or 2 (BR). Two other Black Skimmers were seen at the Salinas River NWR, MTY, June 16–24 (LH), 1 was at the Limantour Estero, PRNS, MRN, June 21 (RS), 1 or 2 were at the Corte Madera Marsh, MRN, June 28–July 5 (GH, PG), and 2 more were spotted off Hwy 84 in Menlo Park, SM, July 2 (RSTh).

Cuckoos to Wood Warblers

An odd location for a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was along Rush Creek, MON, June 7 (CN). Notable for being a first breeding record for Mono County were the remains of a juvenile Western Screech Owl found June 15 (CN). Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported from Piper Slough, CC, June 20 (RH) and

Continues on page 11

Wood Warbler Sightings

Golden-winged Warbler

June 4 Lighthouse, PRNS, RS fide KH
MRN

Tennessee Warbler

June 4-5 Farallones PRBO

June 4 Tunitas Creek Rd, RSTh
SM

June 17-18 Farallones PRBO

Nashville Warbler

June 17-18 Farallones PRBO

June 26 Farallones PRBO

Virginia's Warbler

June 17-18 Farallones PRBO

June 18 Fairhaven, HUM ABB

Northern Parula

May 28 (5) Bear Valley, PRNS, RS
MRN

May 29 Pine Flat Rd, SON DS

June 1 Bear Valley Rd, RS
PRNS, MRN

June 1 Point Reyes RS
Station, MRN

June 1 Scott Creek, SCZ DSu

June 2 Farallones PRBO

June 2 Lighthouse, PRNS, RS
MRN

June 3 Stern Grove, SF RF

June 3-July 6 (1-6) AMSP, MTY MPRBA,
JB, CL, MOB

June 3-4 Pfeiffer Beach, SR,
MTY MPRBA

June 3-12 Carmel Valley, MPRBA
(1-2) MTY

June 3-4 Owl Canyon, SON ST, DN

June 4 Pine Lake Park, SF KM

June 4 Pescadero Ck, SM RSTh

June 5-6 Nunes Ranch, KM, RS
PRNS, MRN

June 6 Gazos Creek, SM PJM

June 7 Nunes Ranch, KH

June 8 Bailey Rd, CC SG

June 10 San Gregorio, SM RSTh

June 13-15 Lincoln Park, SF SD

June 18-19 Lighthouse, PRNS, AE, RS
MRN

June 18 (2) Trinidad, HUM ABB

June 19 Limantour Rd, RS

June 23 Fairhaven, HUM ABB

June 25 Fairhaven, HUM ABB

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June 2 (2) Farallones PRBO

June 3 (2) Lighthouse, PRNS, JC
MRN

June 5 Mendoza Ranch, JC
PRNS, MRN

June 3 (2) Nunes Ranch, SI
PRNS, MRN

June 4 Campbell Cove, DN, DS
Bodega Bay, SON

June 4-5 Farallones PRBO

June 4-5 Lighthouse, KM, RS
(1-2) PRNS, MRN fide KH

June 11 Rush Creek, MON CN

June 17-18 Farallones PRBO

June 18 (2) Trinidad, HUM ABB

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June 12 King Ridge Rd, SONDS

June 14 East Wash, SD

June 14 GGNRA, SF

June 14 MI Davidson, SF PS

June 17(2) BSOL, AMSP, MTY SR

June 18 Iyee City, HUM ABB

June 19 Lighthouse, PRNS, RS

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Ovenbird

June 2 Lighthouse, PRNS, RS
MRN

June 3 Nunes Ranch, SI
PRNS, MRN

June 3 Old MCI Station, ST
PRNS, MRN

June 4 Gazos Creek, SM PJM

June 4-5 (2) Farallones PRBO

June 4 Lighthouse, PRNS, RS fide KH

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Conservation Awards...

Continued from page 1

dredging was scheduled for the same time the Least Tern are nesting. This is not a good idea because the dredging might interfere with the Least Tern foraging for food for their young. Thanks to Frank and Janice, it is hoped that the dredging will now take place during the winter, when it will do no harm to the terns.

Our sincerest thanks to Frank and Janice. We hope, and expect, to see them watch-dogging Alameda meetings for many years to come.

Ruth Gravanis

Wow! What can we say? Ruth is San Francisco's premier environmentalist. A partial list of her activities would include fighting to have wetlands created on Treasure Island; helping us get the Save the Quail resolution passed by the San Francisco Commission on the Environment; taking tons of people on tours of the wetlands of San Francisco (yes, we have wetlands in San Francisco, some of them in part because of Ruth's tenacity in saving them); and attending city agency meeting after city agency meeting to speak out for wildlife and wetlands at Glen Park, at Ocean Beach, and along the Bay shoreline.

Ruth is working with other members of GGAS (in particular, Board Member Nancy Smith) to keep the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed lands secure from uncontrolled public access. These lands, about 25,000 acres of wildlands that have a greater diversity of wildlife than any other place in the Bay Area, are so diverse because for many decades they have been relatively free from human intrusion. The push is on to open them up to unlimited public access, and these lands will then become the same as all of our open spaces: great places to recreate for humans but that are significantly reduced in wildlife diversity because we humans tend to drive out critters and native plants.

Ruth helped create and now helps organize the San Francisco Natural

History program that informs interested people about the natural wealth that remains in the city.

As you can see, Ruth has been an environmental mainstay for San Francisco and for GGAS. Ruth, keep up the incredibly good work you do!

Lillian Fujii

Lillian is perhaps best known to many of you as our just-retired Field Trip Chairperson. This makes it even more amazing that Lillian could find the time she spent on conservation in addition to the long hours spent arranging our field trips. But find the time she did—in addition to working professionally more than fulltime as a lawyer.

Lillian's focus was the East Bay Regional Park District, and for many years now she has been reminding them that they are the stewards of a tremendously important resource—about 90,000 acres of open space including some of our most valuable wildlife habitat.

Faced with heavy pressure from recreationists, the Park District unfortunately sometimes errs on the side of recreation versus the preservation of natural resources—for example, trimming trees during nesting season; poisoning ground squirrels in places where Burrowing Owls are present (the poison may also kill the owls); and allowing jet skiing next to, and sometimes in, Arrowhead Marsh, despite the presence the endangered California Clapper Rail. Lillian has been on top of all these issues, writing letters to the Park District managers to remind them of their responsibility to protect their irreplaceable natural resources and arranging meetings between us and Park District staff so that we can make our points clearly and discuss solutions.

It takes time, energy, and dedication to continue to follow up on issues such as these that have no immediate solutions. Lillian (along with previous Award winner Russ Wilson) has had that determination and energy and, as a result, we have made significant improvements in our relationship with the Park District

and with how they address their wildlife issues. Thanks, Lillian. We count on you to continue this worthwhile and productive effort.

Mike and Jane Larkin

Because our geographic boundaries restrict us to mostly urbanized areas, we don't face many large land-use struggles. However, in the East Bay hills of Orinda and Moraga, we have been, and still are, involved in some important battles to save valuable oak forests and riparian (stream) habitats. In those struggles, Mike and Jane Larkin have been carrying the GGAS message.

In Moraga, an oak forest and a thriving stream were threatened by development. Mike and Jane spent countless hours poring over environmental documents, composing responses to those documents, and attending Planning Commission and City Council meetings. The project has at least been trimmed back so that many of the trees and some of the stream were saved.

In Orinda, the Gateway project (up-scale housing and a champion-style golf course) threatens a 980-acre valley that is rich with wetlands and 5 miles of streams, including a year-round flowing stream (such perennial streams are rare in the East Bay hills). The valley provides habitat for more than 70 bird species and a home for the Red-legged Frog and the Alameda Whipsnake, both listed as either Threatened or Endangered.

Once again, Mike and Jane took on the task of fighting the project. Again, reading and commenting on city plans and environmental documents, attending too many meetings, and all in all, making nuisances of themselves to the developers. That project is 10 years old or more and still not approved by regulatory agencies. We hold out hope that the project will be defeated or at least significantly reduced in scope. If we are successful in our opposition, Mike and Jane will have played a big role and will be able to look on Gateway Valley and all of its natural wonders, knowing that their time and effort were incredibly well rewarded.

Observations ...

Continued from page 9

Paradise, MON, July 2 (ES), and a Costa's Hummingbird was also at the Paradise location on the same date (ES). Too late for inclusion in last month's column was a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Crestview, MON, May 23 (CN). Pileated Woodpeckers have been in the news for Oakland, ALA, residents. Apparently there had been a sighting as early as March in the Piedmont Pines area of Oakland (JH), and recently another report came from the Montclair area, June 12 (SS), a second on Wilshire Blvd, June 11 (ML), and a third in Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, ALA, June 28 (KR). Reports of these birds in the vicinity in recent years have been rare.

A Willow Flycatcher was at Piper Slough, CC, June 1 (SG); another was near the mouth of Scott Creek, SCZ, June 2 (DSu); and another was banded at Big Sur Ornithology Lab (BSOL), Andrew Molera State Park (AMSP), MTY, June 4 (MPRBA), where several were seen on June 7 (JB). Two more Willow Flycatchers were at Liddell Creek, SCZ, June 10 (CE); 1 was at Keith's Gallery, Bolinas, MRN, June 14 (KH); and still another was found at Mount Davidson, SF, June 14 (PS). Single Least Flycatchers were on the Farallones around June 10 (PRBO) and at the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse, June 19 (RS). The Tropical Kingbird first reported in April remained at Lake Merced, SF, through May 29 (HC). An Eastern Kingbird was found near Bridgeport, MON, June 4 (CN); a second was near Spaletta Ranch, June 7 (MS), and a third report came from B Ranch, July 1, both at PRNS, MRN (PG).

The **White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*), first reported on May 20, was still at the BSOL, MTY, as of June 19 (MPRBA, CL, JB, MOB). Amazingly, a second **White-eyed Vireo** was banded at the BSOL, AMSP, MTY, on June 12 (MPRBA)! A Bell's Vireo stopped by the Farallones June 26 (PRBO), and

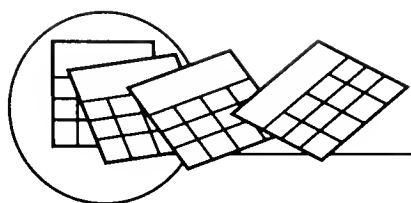
Plumbeous Vireos were reported from 3 locations: at BSOL, AMSP, MTY, June 7 (JB), on Carmel Valley Rd, MTY, June 7 (MPRBA), and at McKinleyville, HUM, June 15 (ABB). Four reports of Red-eyed Vireos were received: 2 separate birds on the Farallones, June 2 and 17-18 (PRBO), 1 in the lower New Willows, PRNS, MRN, June 3 (JC), and another at AMSP, MTY, June 4 (MPRBA). An unusual coastal Yellow-billed Magpie was seen in Fremont, ALA, June 9 (DB). A rare Le Conte's Thrasher was reported at the Fish Slough, MON, July 1 (ES). A first county breeding record for Cedar Waxwings occurred with parents seen feeding 4 fledglings along Pescadero Creek, SM, July 1 (RSTh). Unusual Wood Warblers were much increased in numbers, and 3 review species were identified, w at the PRNS, MRN, and 1 at the Farallones. The **Golden-winged Warbler** (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is an eastern US species in serious decline, in part due to competition and hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler. The **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*) is a very rare transient, with about 2 California records per spring season (Small, 1994), and breeds from south of the Great Lakes to south Texas and east to Georgia. The **Kentucky Warbler** (*Oporornis formosus*) is a very rare spring transient, with most records from the Farallones (Small, 1994), and breeds mainly in the northeastern US and in Canada.

Tanagers to Rosy-finches

A Summer Tanager of the *ruber* subspecies was at the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse June 2-4 (RS, LE). Another Summer Tanager was bathing in Pescadero Creek, SM, June 3 (RSTh) and a third was on the Farallones ~June 10 (PRBO). There was a report of a male **Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga olivacea*) near Point Reyes Station, MRN, June 7 (MS). This bird of the eastern US is an extremely rare coastal transient in northern California (Small, 1994).

A Brewer's Sparrow was identified at the Farallones June 26 (PRBO). A single Black-chinned Sparrow was heard at Montebello Open Space Preserve, May 27, too late for inclusion in the last column (LC); others were reported from Pine Flat Rd, SON, May 29 (DS); and another was at Garrapata State Park, MTY, July 1-6 (MPRBA). Individual Grasshopper Sparrows were at Crank Creek Regional Park, SON, May 29 (DS), and near the intersection of Carmel Valley and Tassajara Rds, MTY, June 3 (MPRBA); and 5 were on Meiss Rd, SAC, May 27 (DJ).

A phenomenal 27 reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were received from Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties and the Farallones, with a total of 16 in Santa Cruz County alone from May 20 to June 21 (DSu). Six single reports of Blue Grosbeaks came from Chaforon Gulch, MEN, June 2 (JW), the PRNS Lighthouse, MRN (JC), at Marsh Creek and Camino Diablo Rds, CC, June 5 (SG), at Orwood Resort, CC, June 8 (SG), Tubbs Island, SON, June 18 (DS), and Tufts Island, SON, June 18 (DS). Also impressive were 16 Indigo Buntings found over Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties and the Farallones. A Bobolink was found at Road Forks Pool, PRNS, MRN, June 6 (RS). More Great-tailed Grackle reports continue to arrive. One bird continued at Zmudowski State Beach, MTY, June 4-12 (MPRBA), 3 were near Bridgeport, MON, June 4 (CN), and 3 continued at Roberts Lake, Seaside, MTY, June 8-July 6 (MPRBA). A pair nesting at McNabney Marsh, CC, June 9-10 (SG, MF), provided a possible first county nesting record. Single Great-tailed Grackles were reported from the Carmel River Mouth, MTY, June 10 (MPRBA), the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, June 18 (EP), and Manzanita Lake, Lassen National Park, TEH, June 29-30 (DM). Unusual in the summer were 10 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Aspendell, INY, July 1 (ES).



September Meeting

The Herons of Stow Lake

Bring the family tonight and enjoy the story of Golden Gate Park's Great Blue Herons. Judy Irving, our featured speaker this evening, will present her film "Heron Island," dubbed a "comedy nature film," which tells the story of 4 young Great Blue Herons, complete with Tina Turner-style hairdos, as they beg for food and prepare to fly from their nest.

Starring Golden Gate Audubon's own Nancy DeStefanis, who launched a program this spring that trains high school interns from the California Academy of Sciences to staff an information booth at Stow Lake, the film will be part of an evening of environmental education opportunities. Nancy will present information about her activities at the park and how they have impacted young environmentalists as well as the indigenous bird population.

Another film, "Kids by the Bay," is

for children of all ages, and shows how school kids are restoring the habitat of San Francisco Bay. From the simple clean-up of trash to replanting native plants, multicultural children on field trips organized by

Estuary Action Challenge, learn that they can have a beneficial effect on the natural world.

Judy Irving received her master's degree in film and broadcasting

from Stanford University and has been making films for more than 25 years. She believes that every one of them has birds in it, even a movie about nuclear weapons! She is currently working on "The Wild Parrots of San Francisco," a film about Mark Bittner and his remarkable relationship with a flock of Cherry-headed Conures. GGAS's former president, Alan Hopkins, and the California Quails of San Francisco have a cameo appearance in that film.

*A Family Environmental
Education Evening*

Thursday, September 21, 2000

7:00 pm Refreshments/Doors open

7:30 pm Program

*Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*. Monthly meeting: third Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Joint membership, local and national, \$30 dollars per year (\$20 per year new members) includes *Audubon Magazine* and *The Gull*. Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *The Gull* separately: \$10 per year, single issues \$1.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue.

The Gull - - ISSN 0164-971X

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DESIGN BY HENRY PHAM



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER